

SOUTH CAROLINA 4-H

2019-2020 Annual Report



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences



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The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.

4-H Inspires Youth to Do

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills. In 4-H, we believe in the power of young people. We see that every child has valuable strengths and real influence to improve the world around us. 4-H welcomes youth of all backgrounds and beliefs, empowering them with the skills and confidence to lead for a lifetime.

With more than 104,000 4-H'ers (ages 5-18) and thousands of adult volunteers, South Carolina 4-H focuses on providing positive youth development experiences to young people by enhancing and increasing their knowledge in civic engagement, leadership, communication skills, STEM, natural resources, healthy lifestyles, horses, livestock and agriculture.



Pam Ardern

The 4-H community club is the foundation of South Carolina 4-H, where youth learn life skills such as civic engagement, community awareness, global awareness, communication, and leadership. Through community club involvement, 4-H members are becoming self-directing, productive, and contributing members of our society while learning in safe and inclusive environments.

4-H empowers young people to be true leaders. True leaders are confident young people who know how to work well with others, endure challenges, and stick with a job until it is done. In 4-H, we believe true leaders aren't born, but rather, they are grown.

This year has been different from any other. In March, all our programs moved to virtual. We had daily email lessons called 4-H@Home. In addition, we have conducted numerous camps in a bag, virtual programs, a virtual Leadership Roundup, virtual State Congress, and many more. Our goal was to continue providing valuable opportunities for engagement through virtual experiences.

The 4-H Agents and State Staff continue to strive to serve the youth throughout the state. Engaged 4-H members, dedicated volunteers, selfless parents, talented agents, and hundreds of community collaborators will continue to learn and grow together to help South Carolina's young people and their communities thrive in 2021.

Pamela B. Ardern
4-H Program Team Director

Shooting for Success

Cassidy Hurst, a seventeen-year-old 4-H'er, is going into her senior year of high school. She is currently serving as President of the South Carolina 4-H State Teen Council.

Shooting sports is only one of the 4-H projects in which she is involved, but she says it is her favorite. Had she not started here, she would have never learned of the endless opportunities offered through 4-H. Starting out, she competed on the Belton Bullseyes BB-gun team. During her first year, she participated in a statewide gun safety test. After what felt like hours of studying and plenty of nerves, she scored 100% on the test. This was the beginning of a true passion of hers. Fast-forward to March 2020; she competed in the 4-H State Presentation Contest: presenting on gun safety.

She is now a member of the One More Shot Clemson 4-H Shotgun team, which she has been a member of for six years. She has had the opportunity to compete at the state championship several years, and she can say there is no better group of people to compete with than South Carolina 4-H. The people that were once teammates have become family, and she can gladly say they have pushed her to grow into the person she is today. So many positive aspects of her life circle back to shooting sports, and she is grateful for having the opportunity to give back. Shooting sports, to her, has become more than a sport.

Over the years, it has been an outlet when times were difficult. There has always been something to learn, which led her to many outstanding achievements in competition and other life areas. It taught her not only teamwork but also the value of having teammates. South Carolina shooting sports helps youth develop the attributes necessary for



success, which, she has learned, go far beyond being good at what you do. She encourages anyone interested in shooting sports to join, and anyone who is involved to stick with it, even when it seems useless to keep trying. If you do not become the best shooter, it will still lead you to great places, doing things you would have never imagined yourself doing.

"We are super proud of Cassidy. She is a tremendous ambassador for 4-H Shooting Sports and the SC 4-H Program. Cassidy embodies the life skills and positive youth development that 4-H strives to instill in all of its members", says Rick Willey, Extension 4-H Shooting Sports Specialist.

In 2019, Cassidy stepped out of her comfort zone and ran for the Upstate Regional Representative for the 4-H State Teen Council and was elected. She loved this experience of utilizing the leadership skills she had gained in the Shooting Sports program to help plan and implement various

statewide events. The passion she developed for leadership led her to run for State Teen Council President and was elected. She is excited to be able to use her skills to serve the 4-H'ers in South Carolina.

SC 4-H Shooting Sports provides an opportunity in the disciplines of shotgun, rifle, and archery. There are also local, state, regional, and national opportunities for the youth. To learn more about 4-H Shooting Sports in your area, contact your local county extension office or Rick Willey at rwilly@clermson.edu.



Volunteers Honored at S.C. 4-H Congress

Kesha Horton of Chester and Lancaster counties and **Lynn Howard** of Florence County were honored with the 2020 Glen Krohn Award for Volunteerism in 4-H, which recognizes outstanding volunteer leadership in 4-H and bears the name of the late assistant director. “The 4-H mission is all about giving young people safe and inclusive learning environments through the involvement of caring adults — and the two winners of this year’s Glen Krohn Award could not be better examples of the impact that those caring adults can have,” said Dr. Ashley Burns, current 4-H Assistant Director.

The Florence County 4-H program was revived six years ago after years without an agent. Lynn Howard, a seventh-grade science teacher at Sneed Middle School, joined the effort early — becoming the club’s second volunteer. She has been a volunteer for five years and, in 2016, was named the Florence County 4-H Volunteer of the Year, her role in running the twice-monthly Sneed Middle 4-H Club meetings. Florence County 4-H Agent Faith Truesdale said, “In [Lynn’s] 4-H club, you will find a diverse group of students and a place where all are welcome.” Lynn’s impacts during her five years as a 4-H leader are significant: her club has been awarded the Emerald Clover Club Award multiple times, and she has written grants to establish a garden, apiary, and wildlife plot at the school her 4-H club calls home.

In Chester and Lancaster counties, Kesha Horton has served as a club leader, advisory council member for two counties, State Fair 4-H booth volunteer, camp chaperone, event planner, social media manager, bus driver, cheerleader, and more during her 12 years as a 4-H volunteer. For Kesha, 4-H has

been a family affair. When her twin daughters were young, she would bring them to 4-H programs at her local library before Kesha finally decided to start her own club: Great Falls 4-H Club. After becoming the administrative assistant for the Lancaster County Extension Office, she also began sharing her talents with 4-H’ers in the neighboring county and continues to expand her impact. Chester County 4-H Agent Abigail Phillips said, “[Kesha] truly gives life to all four H’s — using her head for innovation, her heart for her community, her hands to bring programs to life, and her health to support all of these.”



Lynn Howard

\$25.43

The wage replacement rate for volunteers in South Carolina in 2019 (Independent Sector - volunteer wage replacement rate).

3,079

The number of adult volunteers in SC in 2019.

52

The average time adults volunteer annually, according to the Nonprofits Source.

\$4,071,546

The approximate value of South Carolina 4-H adult volunteer service.

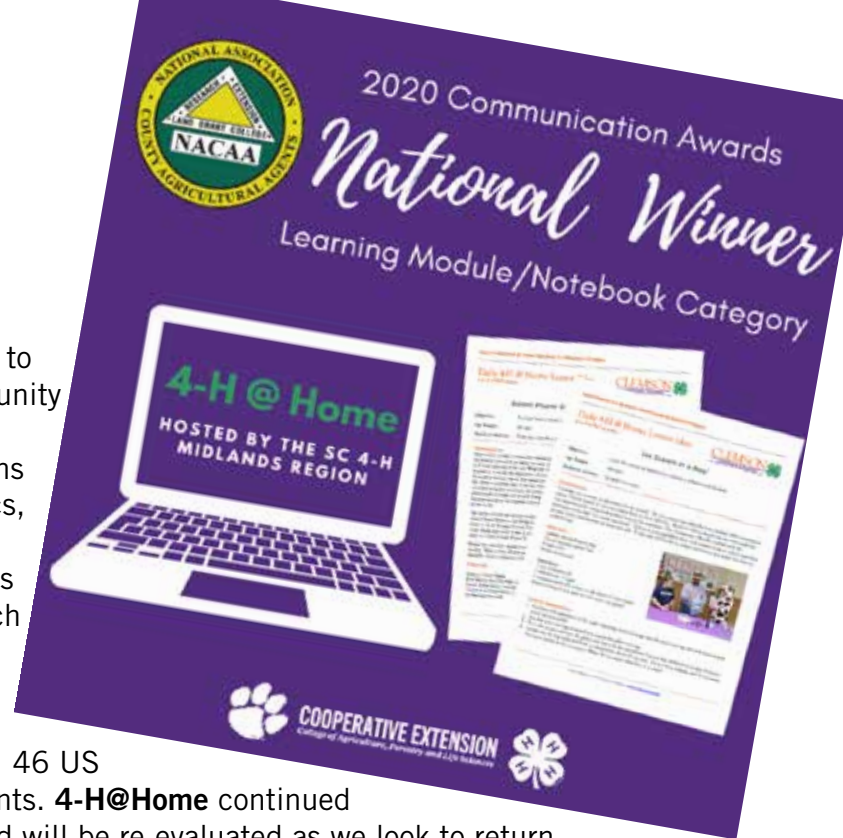


Kesha Horton

4-H @ Home National Award-winning Program

4-H Agents in the Midlands combined efforts to release SC **4-H@Home** as a supplemental opportunity for students. This program provided registrants with a free lesson via email each weekday. Lessons worked for various ages, covered an array of topics, could be done without congregating and required only common household items as lesson materials to reduce trips to stores. Lessons started on March 18 and concluded May 29. Additional in-depth lessons were provided for the summer.

Approximately 2,500 youth participated in this opportunity, representing all 46 SC counties, 46 US states, 1 US territory, 8 countries, and 4 continents. **4-H@Home** continued to be offered monthly throughout the summer and will be re-evaluated as we look to return to school in the fall.



94

percent

of evaluation respondents reported this program was beneficial to their child

91

percent

agreed this program was a good outlet for energy

95

percent

agreed the program contributed to their child's education during school closures

83

percent

reported the program motivated their child to spend more time outdoors

95

percent

plan to utilize lessons from this program again in the future

32

percent

of respondents had no prior involvement with 4-H

92

percent

of them would consider participating in the future

SC 4-H CLUBS EMPHASIZE THE 4-H ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS:

- **BELONGING:** Developing positive relationships with caring adults
- **GENEROSITY:** Providing and appreciating service to others
- **INDEPENDENCE:** Presenting frequent opportunities for self-discipline through community service
- **MASTERY:** Enhancing participation in engaged learning experiences to grow new skills

4-H Program Helps Keep Senator Pinckney's Legacy of Leadership Alive

The S.C. 4-H Pinckney Leadership Conference hosted its first virtual Leadership Roundup June 2020, with the second session of workshops held in July. These were aimed at providing a platform for students nationwide to gather and learn how they could continue to lead amidst the current challenges the country faces.

"The more we talked with students, the more we saw a need to help them navigate through this historical moment," said Rushawnda Olden, 4-H Pinckney Leadership Program director. "Being the fifth anniversary of the passing of Senator (Clementa) Pinckney, I felt like this would be a great opportunity to honor his life and continue his legacy of building youth leaders."

However, for one participant in the leadership conference, the tragedy of the Charleston AME church massacre on June 17, 2015, hit particularly close to home.

Eliana Pinckney is the daughter of the late Sen. Pinckney, the church's senior pastor and one of nine African Americans killed during Bible study by white supremacist Dylan Roof on that date. Now 16 years old and a rising senior at Dreher High School, Eliana was 11 when her father was murdered.

For Eliana and those around her, the program holds special meaning, not only because of their relationships with the senator but also because of the values it espouses.

"Family was always his priority, but he was also very passionate about leadership," she said, "and just to see so many people continuing to live out his legacy even though he's no longer with us is super important, not only to me but the rest of my family as well. I think it's so amazing there are people like Rushawnda and the rest of the 4-H staff who are helping carry on my father's legacy and helping other people learn about leadership and community service and so many other things that my dad was passionate about."



More than 100 youth came together in June to hear from speakers such as former Clemson football star Woody Dantzler, Elizabeth Jende Chevalier of EJC Move Leadership Consulting, business and branding expert Shontavia Johnson and others. The event ended with a panel discussion on race and injustice in our country, during which Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott encouraged students to use their voices to take action in their communities.

"The conference started with amazing speakers who talked about things such as scholarship opportunities, life during college, preparing for life after college, the importance of finding your own path and not letting others dictate your decisions," Eliana said. "We had a specific session that was about mindfulness and the importance of valuing your own mental health, especially during times like these when everything is so uncertain."

But Eliana wasn't the only one with a personal connection to the event. 17-year-old Brantley Evans said his father had a classmate who was killed in the Charleston church shooting, as well.

"(My father) really took that to heart, so I really wanted to be part of this program," Brantley said. "I knew 4-H was about community service and youth development, and I felt like this was a good opportunity for me to join. And that's where I met Eliana. We became really good friends, and that helped me stay involved in the program as well. Now, I participate in 4-H Legislative Day and 4-H State Congress. So, 4-H means a lot to me now, too, and being a part of the leadership team for the 4-H

Pinckney Leadership Program, it really helps me grow as a leader too in my own little way.”

A rising senior at Spring Valley High School, Evans heard about the S.C. 4-H Pinckney Leadership Program as a freshman through a guidance counselor. After attending the weeklong Pinckney Leadership Program on Clemson’s campus in 2018, he returned as a junior counselor in 2019.

Eliana followed the same path through her father’s namesake program, and she and Brantley built friendships with each other and other 4-H’ers that have evolved and grown since.

“We’re like our own little subset and our own little family outside of Clemson, and we call each other and text each other all the time,” Eliana said. “We always look for each other’s events, and it’s really cool to have a family environment with people who care just as much about leadership and community service as we do.”

For Brantley, the recent virtual Leadership Roundup held significant meaning, not least because he knew the impact the weeklong Pinckney Leadership Conference, which had to be canceled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, could have on young people.

“We had 4-H leaders and other great speakers and motivators to talk about what’s going on in the world right now,” Brantley said. “We felt the need to have an open discussion and hear everybody’s input on it. It was really impactful because we heard from an adult’s point of view and people who come from different backgrounds, and that was personally my favorite part of the conference.”

And for young people who were unable to take part in the first session of the virtual program, the second set of three workshops was held daily July

14-16. The program was open to middle and high school students from South Carolina and beyond — youth from North Carolina and California took part in the June sessions — and is completely free of charge.

The July sessions of the Virtual Leadership Roundup continued to feature youth leaders and speakers from various backgrounds to discuss ways to pivot as leaders during these moments of change. Students will not only hear from dynamic speakers such as former Clemson athletes Michael Allen and Dantzler, but also take a deep dive into various topics such as mental health, leadership, financial literacy, and more.

For Olden and other 4-H staff, offering these resources free to young people across the state is a fitting way to honor the late senator’s life and continue his legacy — by passing the values he held so dear along to the next generation of South Carolina leaders.



“I’ve attended several leadership webinars for adults on how to pivot during this time, but no one was really talking to the students,” Olden said. “So, we didn’t want them to be left out of the conversation. There were so many things going on in our country, and the gist of our

leadership event was to help students figure out: Now what do I do? How do I continue to lead in my school and my community? How do I manage my emotional health? What can I do as a youth leader or preparing for college?”

“We wanted to help them stay motivated to continue to lead and continue to stay focused on their goals, despite what is going on. There’s still hope,” she concluded.



No Plans to Slow Down

COVID-19 hasn't stopped the South Carolina 4-H Horse Project. Only a day after South Carolina 4-H announced that, for the safety of their members and volunteers, all programs would be postponed or move to a virtual platform, the horse project was posting online opportunities. The program leaders understood the need to keep business as usual as much as possible for its members.

The project has been very busy hosting virtual contest/activities for youth and promoting even more opportunities for youth to stay active with their horse project while at home. Online contests have included virtual horse judging, online video contest, virtual state horse show, online hippology contest, and online horse bowl contest. An existing online educational class offered by the project, called Horse Institute, was extended, which gave members an opportunity to gain additional knowledge. The

videos from our online video contest received a combined total of over 10,000 views. Four workshops on how the virtual hippology and horse bowl contests would work were held, allowing youth and volunteers to orient themselves and gain comfort with the new online contest platform. Two sessions of online horse camp invited youth within and outside the project to join in for educational lessons, homework assignments, fun activities, crafts, and optional riding assignments. Talking Horses Tuesday is a once a month online panel discussion with equine professionals to discuss hot topics in the horse industry that started in September and ending in January. Finally, social media spirit weeks and a summer project t-shirt were offered to help keep youth and volunteer spirits' lifted. About 300 youth have participated in these collective virtual programs for 4-H horse project youth.

The South Carolina 4-H Horse Project has no plans of slowing down as we continue to move forward during these uncertain times. The project will continue to offer more online trainings and contests. For more information about the horse project, please visit: <https://www.clemson.edu/extension/4h/programs/ag-animals/horse/index.html>. Be sure to also follow us on Facebook!



4-H'ers Gabby Wessel (left) and Samantha Easter (top)

DID YOU KNOW 4-H'ERS ARE...

5X MORE LIKELY TO GRADUATE COLLEGE

4X MORE LIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES.

3X MORE PHYSICALLY ACTIVE THAN NON 4-H'ERS

2X MORE LIKELY TO ENGAGE IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH DURING OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIMES.

2X MORE LIKELY TO PURSUE A CAREER IN SCIENCE

YALL

The year 2020 has been a challenging year for 4-H. Our Youth Livestock programs across the state had to come up with creative and new ways to engage members. The **Youth Academy of Livestock Learning, YALL**, was created by our Livestock Steering Committee to provide our 4-H livestock members across the state a way to continue their educational growth with their livestock project(s).

It was designed as an educational event that would keep our dairy, livestock and poultry youth engaged during a time when most of their in-person opportunities had been canceled or postponed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Agents from the 4-H Team and the Forage and Livestock Team, along with volunteers all came together to produce five educational modules for six species; Beef, Dairy, Poultry, Rabbit, Small Ruminant (sheep and meat goats), and Swine. Along with the modules, webinars were offered for the participants to learn more or ask any questions they had. After the educational modules, participants elected to take age appropriate skill-a-thon tests designed to assess their knowledge of their species of interest. The project wrapped up with two weeks of virtual barn tours and sales talk contests. These virtual events allowed the participants an opportunity to showcase their projects, their daily routines, and their ability at promote their project animal(s).

YALL had an overwhelming response with an estimated 2,000 participants registered for the series. Participants included individuals and school agriculture programs. YALL participants were not limited to the state of South Carolina. Along with South Carolina participants, YALL drew participants from more than 20 states, as well as several foreign countries.



Face Masks by 4-H



Katherine Ryan, 2019-2020 State Teen Council Member, shared “Hello, South Carolina 4-H! Thank you for your support of Face Masks by 4-H! As of [July 2020], over 2,700 masks have been donated by 4-H’ers across the state, far exceeding our goal of 2020. As you know, the need for masks has not gone away, and with school starting, it is likely that students and teachers across the state will need masks. We encourage you to keep making and donating masks in your community! Please share your pictures on social media with #SC4Health. Thank you again for your contributions during this time!”



4-H Legislative Day Brings Together State's Current, Future Leaders

South Carolina 4-H Legislative Day is an annual opportunity for youth across the state to share their 4-H experiences with lawmakers. The stories of growth and inspiration are often as unique and diverse as the communities they represent. More than 350 4-H'ers, family members, and Clemson Cooperative Extension 4-H Agents registered to make the trip to the capital city for the event, as March 10, 2020 was declared 4-H day at the state capitol by House resolution.

Greenville County Teen Council president Haleigh Tomlin said the story she would share with lawmakers was one of perseverance and passion. A second-generation 4-H'er, Tomlin joined the program as an 8-year-old, but after the disappointment of falling short in her bid for a state leadership position, found herself questioning her commitment. "But 4-H has let me know I always have a support system behind me," Tomlin said. "Obviously, my family is a big supporter, but behind them is Patricia Whitener, my county agent. After I lost the election for State Teen Council this past summer, I wanted to give up on 4-H. But she encouraged me to keep going and convinced me that one election does not determine who you are ... and the people like that are the people who keep kids interested and engaged in 4-H."

Tomlin said she also struggled with severe social anxiety "for a long time," but, through 4-H, has risen above those issues and found the confidence to take on new leadership opportunities within the club. "I was able to get on the State Teen Council and meet the legislative liaison. I've been president and vice president of both the Greenville County Teen Council and Stablemates 4-H Horse Club," she said. "And now, I promote 4-H in my platform, 'Let's Grow Some Leaders: Educating Youth About 4-H,' through the Miss America program. So, I will go to represent 4-H on the Miss South Carolina stage later this summer."

South Carolina 4-H Youth Development uses a learn-by-doing approach to help youth gain the knowledge and skills to be responsible, productive,

and contributing members of society by creating safe and inclusive learning environments, the involvement of caring adults, and utilizing the expertise and resources of Clemson University and the nationwide land-grant university system.

For Travis Merritts, from Florence County, what began as an opportunity to hang out with friends at school became an eye-opening experience in determining his future career path. While visiting local hospitals during only his second meeting as a 4-H'er, Merritts said one of the medical disciplines the young people were exposed to was physical therapy, which — as an avid athlete — piqued his interest. "My experience has been great with 4-H," Merritts said. "It's opened me to a lot of different career opportunities, and I've met a lot of new people through this program. 4-H has definitely taught me the skills of being a leader and not being afraid to try new things. I want to go to college for physical therapy and, through 4-H, I've found my love for that."



Greenville County Teen Council president Haleigh Tomlin

School Gardening for South Carolina Educators:

Garden-Based STEM Education Program Helps Educators Create Garden Classrooms



A major barrier to educators who wish to engage students in garden-based learning is a lack of the horticulture skills to grow a school garden successfully. Clemson Extension responded by developing the “School Gardening for SC Educators” program with initial funding from The College of Charleston and Boeing SC.

This comprehensive garden-based STEM curriculum, aligned to South Carolina teaching standards, fully integrates garden-based, experiential learning into the classroom. The program combines horticulture training, ongoing technical support, and equipment for schools to start and sustain successful school gardens. The interdisciplinary team of Extension Agents developed innovative approaches to overcome common school gardening obstacles such as poor soil, seasonality, and food safety concerns specific to the school gardening community.

Each teacher participant receives program materials, including a regionally specific technical guide: Seasonal Planting Guide and Calendar for School Gardens: Upstate Region or Lowcountry Region. The guide instructs school gardeners when to plant transplants and seeds. It also indicates when to harvest a wide array of common vegetables. Educators are introduced to statewide resources including 4-H Youth Development. 4-H youth development agents, horticulture extension agents, and Master Gardener volunteers have committed to delivering transplants to schools in their counties four times per year.

South Carolina 4-H Youth Development extension agents play a key role in identifying educators to engage in the program and are adept at cultivating relationships with these educators and their students. School gardens have introduced 4-H into countless classrooms and increased participation in other 4-H project areas. During the 2019-20 school year, there were 110 schools from across the state who opted into the transplant delivery program. Partnerships with the SC School Nutrition Association, SC Department of Education Farm to School, and the Medical University of South Carolina have resulted in more than 60 additional grant-funded school gardens and approximately 100 more educators trained in the 2019-20 school year. School gardens are now in 36 counties throughout South Carolina.

The 2020 school year has been a challenging one for school gardeners. The impact of school closures and strict health guidelines upon reopening has been stressful for educators, students, and parents. Despite these obstacles, many educators are more eager than ever to utilize outdoor education to ease COVID-19 concerns for students. The Clemson Extension COVID-19 taskforce approved a delivery protocol that allowed the program to continue supplying teachers and students with transplants for their school gardens. In September 2020, over 40 agents and agency partners delivered broccoli transplants to 151 schools in 35 counties. In October, more than 160 schools received over 200 pounds of onion sets and over 1,000 cabbage plants.



MARS MADNESS



Mars Madness!!! Do you want to know what all the fuss is about and how an out-of-this-world planetary adventure has anything to do with 4-H?! There are endless possibilities to spark creativity, imagination, and learning through Mars-themed activities. Science (inquiry and engineering design processes) may be the core of these learning experiences, but they emphasize so much more, including civic engagement, healthy living, and agriculture! A few of the skills youth develop through Mars-themed learning are communication, teamwork, leadership, resiliency, contribution to a group effort, problem-solving, and computational thinking skills.

During the COVID-pandemic, the approach to delivering program content evolved several times. South Carolina 4-H's Journey to Mars was designed to include two distance-learning delivery modes and was released to increase computational thinking skills in youth. Support was provided by Growing a CS Pathway for America's Youth: Accelerator Award made possible with support by Google (\$20,000), in which 4-H will bring computer science (CS) programming to kids across the county equipping the next generation with the foundational skills they need to lead, innovate and problem-solve in every discipline – from business to fashion to agriculture. Learning concepts used in Journey to Mars include logic (predicting & analyzing), algorithms (making steps & rules), decomposition (breaking down into parts), patterns (spotting & using similarities), abstraction (removing unnecessary detail),

There have been huge Mars initiatives during 2020!!! Here are the top efforts:

1. **South Carolina 4-H's Journey to Mars programs (funded by a Google/ National 4-H Council grant)**
 - a. 700 kits disseminated across the state with 8 lessons/activities
 - i. Plus, an educator's training
 - b. At home version with a series of 5 lessons/activities
2. **National 4-H Mars Base Camp**
 - a. 50 kits provided to Extension offices with more individuals and offices purchasing their own
 - b. Facilitator's Training
 - c. Mars Mondays
3. **Other related activities:**
 - a. Watch parties for the launch and landing!
 - b. Abigail and Ashley presented on Mars Madness at the National 4-H Volunteer Conference.
 - c. INSIGHT from Mars coding challenge during National CS Education Week in December

and evaluation (making judgment). The approaches to learning and activities include: tinkering (experimenting & playing), creating (designing & making), debugging (finding & fixing errors), persevering (keeping going), and collaborating (working together).

The first delivery mode for Journey to Mars is a kit-based program that supplies youth with almost everything they need to complete the eight activities described in a mission manual (>6 hours of programming). Approximately 700 kits were assembled and disseminated to the 29 county offices and military 4-H programs that requested them for local coordination and distribution. A

facilitator training was hosted to walk educators through the kit components and activities once agents and volunteers had kits in-hand. The training was recorded and materials were disseminated to all counties and programs that requested a kit. Frameworks for virtual engagement were included in the training and local facilitators were encouraged to work with youth online.

In addition to the kits, a Journey to Mars @ Home version was also created and shared around the same learning outcomes (<6 hours of programming). Youth can embark on a Journey to Mars with five lessons that are embedded in an interactive Qualtrics survey with videos, activities, and reflection. Activities are completed online and with materials commonly found in a home; therefore, no materials are provided. Links to each activity are posted on the SC 4-H Science website and COVID-resources website, were distributed via the SC 4-H @ Home reaching approximately 2,500 youth, and shared in a scheduled release on social media leading up to the launch of the 2020 Mars Mission with the Rover: Perseverance set for July 30, 2020. Youth can participate in one or both of the delivery modes. There is not a single activity that is duplicated between the two versions, but they reinforce similar learning outcomes and revolve around the same Mars theme. The excitement surrounding this historic event and the planned release of Mars Base Camp National 4-H STEM Challenge make this an opportune time for our Journey to Mars program. A Clemson Newsstand article was released on July 27, 2020, three days before the successful launch of the 2020 Mars Mission on Thursday, July 30, at 7:50 AM EDT. The Mars Perseverance Rover is expected to land on Mars in February 2021.

The Mars craze is not limited to South Carolina alone. The National 4-H STEM Challenge for 2020 is also called Mars Base Camp. In South Carolina, 50 family and educator kits for this challenge were supplied to counties, with more counties and individuals purchasing their own. The SC 4-H Science Committee presented a facilitator training and a 4-part series called Mars Mondays throughout the month of October. Volunteers and educators from all over the country participated in these sessions and a Mars Madness: Seeing the Possibilities workshop at a national virtual conference. Current events make this an ideal time to launch your next adventure with 4-H!



Deep Rooted Alumni

John W. Parris

Spartanburg County 4-H alumnus

John W. Parris was born May 30, 1936, and grew up on a small farm in upper Spartanburg County, South Carolina. In the 5th grade, 1947, he attended his first 4-H Club meeting at New Prospect School and decided to become a member. He eventually served as president of the New Prospect 4-H Club during his eighth-grade year in 1949-50.

At age 14, Parris was chosen to represent Spartanburg County at the State 4-H Conservation Camp at Camp Rocky Bottom in Pickens County in July 1950. He was asked to present the devotional at the opening session of the camp. Later that evening, a representative of the National 4-H Office in Washington, DC, was the keynote speaker. He spent some time discussing careers in conservation. To emphasize his point, he pointed down toward Parris seated on the front row and said, "The young man who gave the devotional earlier this evening may someday head up a state conservation agency." He never thought

about that statement again until the evening of January 1, 1972, as he sat in his office in Columbia, SC as the new executive director of the agency that was to become the State Land Resources Commission a few weeks later. All of a sudden... the remarks the man from Washington, DC, had made 22 years at Camp Rocky Bottom came rushing into his mind.



Parris at National 4-H Congress

Parris's accolades are numerous, and his 4-H achievements are at the top of his personal list. In 1951, Parris was named the state winner of the 4-H Citizenship Recognition Program. He served as Secretary of the Spartanburg County 4-H Council in 1952-53 and treasurer of the State 4-H Council in 1953-54.

Parris at National 4-H Camp

Parris was one of four outstanding 4-H Club members from South Carolina selected to attend the 1954 National 4-H Camp in Washington, DC. This was the highest honor that could come to a 4-H Club member in South Carolina at the time. While in Washington, Parris and the other delegates met with President Dwight D. Eisenhower at the White House. Parris was chosen along with a delegate from Louisiana to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery during a special 4-H Ceremony. In the summer of 1954, Parris was a member and individual high scorer of the first State 4-H Championship Land Judging Team from Spartanburg County held at Clemson University during Farm and Home Week.

Parris enrolled in Clemson University in August 1954 and attended the National 4-H Congress in Chicago, Illinois, November 27-December 2, 1954. He attended the Congress as the Southern State Regional Winner in Community Relations. While at Congress, he was awarded the Alpha Gamma Rho Scholarship as the Outstanding 4-H Boy in the nation based on 4-H Achievement, Leadership, and Scholarship.



Parris wins Alpha Gamma Rho Scholarship

In 1956-57, Parris served as president of Clemson Collegiate 4-H Organization. As a highlight of his service in that leadership position, Parris originated the first State Rural Young Folks Day and served as the student chairman. The event, attended by hundreds of young people from rural South Carolina and adjoining states, was held in conjunction with Farm and Home Week at Clemson. Parris also served as chaplain of the State 4-H Alumni Council in 1957-58.

While at Clemson, Parris served as a writer for the Clemson College of Agriculture AGRARIAN magazine during his senior year. Additionally, during his senior year at Clemson, Parris served as president of the Collegiate FFA Organization. He also served as the Associate Student Body Chaplain that included writing religious columns for the Clemson TIGER, coordinating week-day Morning Watch Religious Services in the Student Chapel, offering the invocation before meals in the dining hall, and praying at Clemson football games.

Upon graduation from Clemson, Parris served as an Agricultural Education Instructor at Chester High School for six years and in Anderson City Schools for two years.

In 1966, Parris was named associate executive director of the South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission. In January 1972, he became executive director of the agency that became the South Carolina Land Resources Commission and gained additional responsibilities in land management and natural resource conservation in March of that year. Parris was nationally recognized for introducing drip irrigation technology to South Carolina farmers and other agriculturalists. He is equally recognized for introducing conservation tillage or no-till farming technology to farmers in the state. He successfully secured the enactment of state legislation to provide for a state income tax credit for farmers when purchasing a no-till drill or drip irrigation installation equipment.

The Land Resources Commission was the state agency responsible for the registration of professional landscape architects. As a result of his interest in a Landscape Architecture Degree at Clemson, Parris persuaded the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education to approve Clemson's request to begin a Landscape Architecture Degree after denying the request.

Parris, rightfully so, is a highly decorated man. In recognition of his dynamic leadership in natural resource conservation, Parris was the first and only one from South Carolina to receive the National Professional Conservationist Award presented by the National Association of Conservation Districts. Parris was named **Man of The Year in Service to Agriculture** in 1980 by the Progressive Farmer magazine. A long-time supporter of the South Carolina 4-H Program, Parris was also named the **Outstanding 4-H Alumnus** by the Clemson Cooperative Extension Service in 1989. In addition, The National FFA Organization has presented Parris with the **Honorary American FFA Degree** and the prestigious **VIP Award**. Parris was the first South Carolinian named to the National Conservation Hall of Fame by the National Association of Conservation Districts. Governor Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. presented Parris the **Order of the Palmetto** in 1994. Mr. Parris has been a tremendous progressive advocate for agriculture and youth in South Carolina.

Our 4-H Alumni are deeply rooted in our 4-H heritage, and we love sharing their past 4-H stories. If you would like to learn more or join the South Carolina 4-H Alumni Association, please reach out to Marie Bolt via email at jeanneo@clemson.edu.



Healthy Lifestyles Programming



South Carolina 4-H has been very fortunate to secure a grant from the Walmart Foundation to provide nutritional information to South Carolina's youth and families. We have served 8,344 youth through a variety of programs this year.

Healthy Lifestyles Competition

The 4-H Healthy Lifestyles Challenge, modeled after competitions such as the Food Network's "Iron Chef," challenges teams of 4-H members to create an assigned dish. Team members must prepare the dish, present the dish, plan a menu utilizing the dish, and prepare a fitness plan. The presentation will include information about the serving size, nutritional value, how to utilize the dish in a meal, and the cost of the dish. The 4-H Healthy Lifestyles Challenge allows 4-H members to demonstrate their culinary and food safety skills to judges and observers. The contest is held as a part of the South Carolina State Fair.

The 2019 State Winners were as follows:

Senior Team from Spartanburg County were Ty Daivs, Eva Earle, Taylor Fuller, and Michael Lindblad

Junior Team from Saluda County were Ava Martin, Kenzie Morse, and Andy Buzhardt

Cloverleaf Team from Saluda County were Caden Forrest, Joseph Morse, Lily Ridgell, and Zoey Clary.



School Programs

Over 4,500 youth are reached through school programs. A series of 6 lessons are provided by the agents to youth of various ages. These lessons focus on the importance of water, fruits, and vegetables, the importance of whole grains, eating breakfast, reducing fat in our diet, and reading labels. This spring, we adapted a program called Quest 4 a Healthier You to continue the programs virtually.



Summer Camps

These camps will conduct at least 6 hours of programming with youth on the importance of nutrition and movement in everyday lives. Healthy Lifestyle Ambassadors were encouraged to help conduct these Day Camps. These programs were conducted virtually this summer in various ways, from self-paced kits, kits and videos, or live zooms with youth.

Ambassadors

Ambassadors are critical to the growth of the Healthy Lifestyles Programs. They assist with programs at county, state, regional and national levels. Ambassadors of the Healthy Habits program serve as youth coordinators in many program areas. Training also enables Ambassadors to enhance their leadership, citizenship, and communication skills as teens, which adds sustainability to the program. We provide opportunities to strengthen and expand upon current leadership abilities to serve as possible role models for younger youth, build meaningful partnerships with other teens, volunteers, and 4-H professionals, and promote the mission of Healthy Lifestyles programs.

Cooking Like a Chef Camp

This year, our Cooking Like a Chef camps were offered virtual. We provided each of the youth a kit with supplies, ten individual lessons, and the Cooking Like a Chef Manual. Each of the lessons had instruction on the skills needed for the lesson, a recipe, and a video to help them prepare this recipe. The videos were prepared by chefs, teen leaders, and County 4-H Agents.

Some of the recipes included Beef Stew, Pizza, Chicken Pot Pie, Omelets, Stir Fry, Ricotta Cheese and Manicotti, Tuna Tacos, Apple Quesadillas, Macaroni and Cheese, and healthy snacks.

Each participant was encouraged to take pictures of their dishes and send them to their County 4-H. This qualified them for a variety of awards.



Healthy Lifestyles Summit

In January, we held our annual Healthy Lifestyles Summit in Columbia. Teams of three youth and one adult were trained to be Ambassadors for the program. Training was conducted by a variety of individuals, including chefs, Dr. Marge Condrasky from the Department of Food, Nutrition and Packaging Science, and many of her students. The youth were trained in a curriculum related to the theme of the year. In turn, these youth were expected to return to their communities to implement programming. This year, these camps turned into virtual camps. This is a comment made by Eva Earle, one of our Teen ambassadors made concerning the programs this summer. "This summer, I had the opportunity to be a 'counselor' for Spartanburg County 4-H's online cooking camp. I absolutely loved making videos for the kids and seeing all their pictures on Facebook. Even though we could not cook or meet with each other in person, I enjoyed camp, and I believe the kids enjoyed it as well. Everyone that participated was understanding and allowed us to make mistakes and figure out the best ways to make the online camp fun and exciting. Although camp was very different this year, I had just as much fun as I did last Summer."

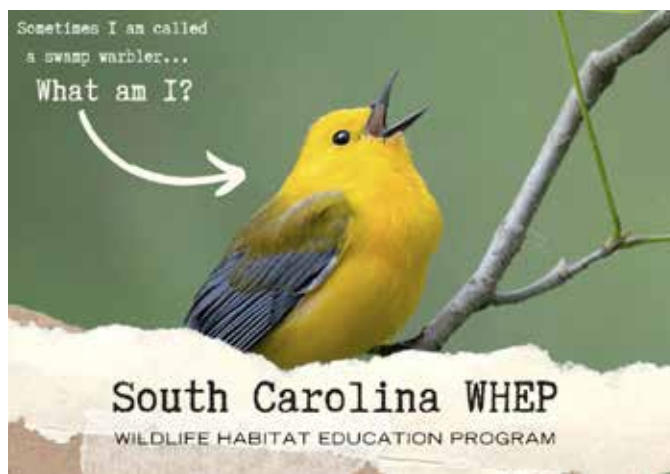


WHEP

The **Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP)** is a natural resources program aimed at teaching wildlife and fisheries habitat management and conservation to youth ages 9-18. The program provides youth the opportunity to make real-life wildlife management decisions, test their wildlife knowledge in a friendly competition, and exposes youth to potential career opportunities. To build the program in South Carolina, an adult WHEP Educators Training was held for formal and non-formal educators, 4-H

volunteers, and Extension agents to provide them with resources and hands-on experience to teach their students and 4-H members about wildlife. All of the educators that attended the training (n = 21) agreed or strongly agreed that the training increased their skills in wildlife areas of interest to them, provided them information/resources to successfully lead a WHEP team, and gave them hands-on experience that will help them with future WHEP activities. In addition, 90% agreed or strongly agreed that the WHEP training made them more passionate about youth wildlife programs. Eighty-one percent of these participants were new to WHEP. The projected reach of youth that would engage in WHEP following the training was 668 youth.

The novel coronavirus pandemic halted the State WHEP Contest immediately prior to being conducted. It was slated for Saturday, March 14, 2020, at Nemours Wildlife Foundation in Yemassee, SC, with 14 teams (50 total youth) and 60 additional persons in attendance. Nemours Wildlife Foundation has also provided generous financial support for the WHEP program. The Online WHEP Wildlife Challenge was developed to allow an opportunity for virtual engagement! Over 120 people registered for the contest, both youth and adults. The Wildlife Challenge is just one of the state contest activities that happens in-person but was adapted to an online platform with a 30-question contest for Juniors, a 50-question contest for Seniors, and another 30-question contest for adults/educators. The online version was modeled directly after the in-person contest and was completed by 62 individuals. Postcards in envelopes with WHEP stickers were mailed to all youth contest participants. More content and information related to natural resources is posted regularly on our newly established South Carolina 4-H Natural Resources Facebook group. Each week, "What am I Wednesday?" question and answer posts drive engagement and learning related to native plants and wildlife.



Small Garden Project

Record Number of Gardens

With the current situation of today's society, families are more than ever eager to be self-sufficient and non-reliant on things they have depended on in the past. One of the most important things is a trusted food source. The 2020 South Carolina 4-H Small Garden Project was offered to youth, ages 5-18 years old, to be responsible for managing a small garden (50 sq. ft.) and keeping records throughout the project season. There were 164 total youth registered with 120 gardens from 28 counties. This was the most gardens we have ever had participate in a single year for the 4-H Small Garden Project. Ninety-one percent of SC counties have participated in this project since it started in 2012. Youth just finished growing their gardens and submitted their project books. Project record books moved to an online platform, and site visits were completed virtually this year where possible this year due to COVID-19.





4-H

2018-2019

South Carolina

PARTICIPATION

OVER **104K** TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

18,490
PARTICIPATED
IN HEALTHY
LIVING
PROGRAMS

21,914
PARTICIPATED
IN CITIZENSHIP
PROGRAMS

OVER
159,000
YOUTH PARTICIPATED
IN 4-H PROGRAMS
WITH DUPLICATIONS

118,777
PARTICIPATED
IN STEM
PROGRAMS

VOLUNTEERS

3079
ADULT VOLUNTEERS



323 YOUTH
VOLUNTEERS



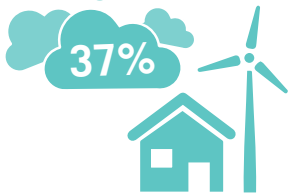
RESIDENCE

TOWNS



32%

RURAL



37%

SUBURBAN



25%

CITIES



3%

FARM



3%

DEMOGRAPHICS

ETHNICITY



9%
LATINO

91% NOT
LATINO

DIVERSITY

57% WHITE
36% AFRICAN
AMERICAN
& **6%** OTHER

GENDER

50% FEMALE

50% MALE

GRADE LEVEL

K-2



31.4%

3-5



35.3%

6-8



23.4%

9-12



9.9%

4-H'ERS ARE...

2X MORE LIKELY TO BE
CIVICALLY INVOLVED



2X MORE LIKELY TO MAKE
HEALTHIER CHOICES



2X MORE LIKELY TO PARTICIPATE IN
SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND
COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

4X

MORE LIKELY TO MAKE
CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THEIR COMMUNITIES



2020 Presidential Tray Winners

The Presidential Tray is the highest award that a South Carolina 4-H'er can receive. It is based on their leadership, civic engagement and overall project work. The youth receive a silver tray presented by President Clements and a \$2,000 scholarship. The winners are selected based on their portfolio, resume and interview.



Arizona Bowers



Marie Elizabeth Grant



Jordan Snipes



Hailey Williamson

Arizona Bowers from Anderson and Laurens Counties. Zoie was highly involved in the 4-H horse project for seven years. In 2018 she was elected as the Upstate Representative for the State 4-H Teen Council. She also served as a 4-H Ambassador and a 4-H Horse Ambassador.

She joined the Laurens County Teen Council and competed in the Presentation Contest. She went on to win the State Contest and was able to represent SC at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Round-up and placed 13th in the nation.

Zoie is so thankful for 4-H and everything it has given her. Self-confidence, life skills, and knowledge. The most important thing that she has learned in 4-H is how important the people in your life are and that each person leaves a lasting impact. She is thankful for friends that are like family.

Her scholarship is provided by the South Carolina Advocates of Agriculture.

Marie Elizabeth Grant, from Anderson County, has been in 4-H for six years.

She became involved in the 4-H Ambassador Program and was accepted into the 4-H Pinckney Leadership Program. She decided to take her 4-H career to the next level and started a 4-H club.

This past year she was on the team that attended the All-American Quarter Horse Congress and took first place nationally in the Horse Bowl and Hippology Contests.

Meg states she can confidently say that 4-H has changed her life for the better. She entered the 4-H program as an insecure and unsure individual, and over the past six years, she has developed into a confident and passionate leader. She sees the positive impact that 4-H has on youth. 4-H has made her a much more confident and motivated person while opening her eyes to the available opportunities. Meg does not know for sure what her future holds, but she knows the life skills she has acquired through 4-H will benefit her for the rest of her career and life.

Her scholarship is provided by South Carolina State Fair.

Jordan Snipes is from Florence and York Counties. When he was in the ninth grade, he was selected to participate in the Florence County Junior 4-H Leadership Program and then the SC 4-H Pinckney Leadership Conference. Because of his experience during the 4-H Pinckney Leadership Conference, Jordan began to practice living his life to serve, lead, and inspire each day. The following year he served as a Junior Counselor for the 4-H Pinckney Leadership Program.

In 2019, Jordan was chosen to attend the 2019 Citizenship Washington Focus as a Pinckney Leadership alumnus. He was also a State winner and participated at the 2019 National 4-H Congress, where he was selected to serve on the 2020 National 4-H Congress Design Team as one of only eight 4-H'ers from across the nation to serve on this team. He also applied to be a Summer Program Assistant with the National 4-H Center for National Citizenship Focus. He was selected, but due to COVID-19, the summer program was canceled.

To serve his community, state, and nation in ways he never imagined would be one of the biggest blessings of all. The last five years in his development as a leader have established an essential foundation that Jordan states for which he will always be grateful.

His scholarship is provided by the South Carolina Association of Fairs.

Hailey Williamson from Lexington County. 4-H has allowed her to meet new friends, break away from her inner shell, brought her closer to the animal she loves, introduced her to new animals, taught her what real leadership is, and taught her the value of giving back to others.

4-H has allowed her to meet many new friends, not only from her county and state but across the country. She has gained friendships through every aspect of 4-H that she has been involved in; 4 different clubs over the years, State 4-H Teen Council, competitions throughout the year, and National 4-H Congress.

Service has become an essential part of her 4-H career. She has participated in numerous serving-learning projects ranging from collecting food for flood victims, collecting toys for children at Christmas, educating the public about 4-H, making toys for cat and dog shelters, and serving food to the homeless. The most meaningful service became a project with veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

In the future, she wants to become a better version of herself. She wants to continue giving back to those who are less fortunate and those who have sacrificed so much for our country. Her 4-H Story is truly just the beginning, and she knows it will continue for a lifetime in giving to both the agriculture community and the future generations in 4-H.

Her scholarship is provided by South Carolina State Fair.

OUR PROJECT AREAS



Agriculture & Animals



Healthy Lifestyles



Leadership & Civil Engagement



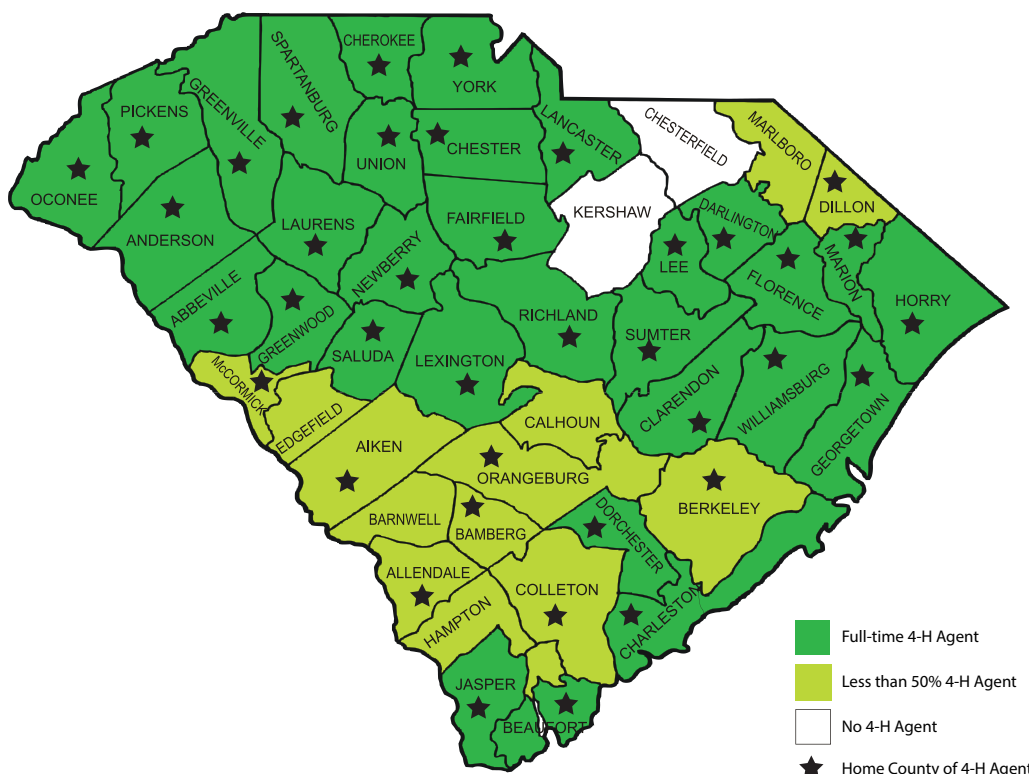
Natural Resources



Personal Development



Science, Technology & Engineering



2020 *National 4-H Conference Winners*

National 4-H Conference is the premier event conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington D.C. These youth will represent South Carolina at National 4-H Conference in April. The youth receive the trip and a \$1,500 scholarship. The winners are selected based on their portfolio and an interview.

Katelyn McCarter from York County. Her scholarship is provided by the Walter A. Ridgeway Endowment

Brianna Smalls from Dorchester County. Her scholarship is provided by the South Carolina Rural Rehabilitation.

Maggie Thomas from Dorchester County. Her scholarship is provided by the South Carolina Rural Rehabilitation

Langley Vernon from Anderson County. Her scholarship is provided by the Walter A. Ridgeway Endowment.

2020 *State 4-H Winners*

Each year, South Carolina selects up to ten state winners. These individuals are selected based on their leadership, civic engagement and overall project work. The youth receive a trip to National 4-H Congress in Atlanta and a \$1,000 scholarship.

Aliza Allison from Lexington County.

Her scholarship is provided by Wesley and Karissa Ulmer in honor of Fern and John Wesley Ulmer.

Carson Marino from Chester County.

His scholarship is provided by the SC Association of Retired Clemson Extension Employees.

Brianna Smalls from Dorchester County.

Her scholarship is provided by SC Family and Community Leaders Organization.

Maggie Thomas from Dorchester County.

Her scholarship is provided by SC Family and Community Leaders Organization.

Langley Vernon from Anderson County.

Her scholarship is provided by SC Association of Retired Clemson Extension Employees.

Allyson Wright from Hampton County.

Her scholarship is provided by the SC Association of Extension 4-H Agents.

2020 *Spirit of 4-H Winner*

The Spirit of 4-H Award is given to a Junior or Senior 4-H who has exhibited the Spirit of 4-H in their efforts in 4-H. As a part of this award, the winner receives a \$1,000 scholarship.

Nick Matthews from Florence County.

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SC Rural Rehabilitation Corp (SCRRC)
South Carolina Advocates for Agriculture
South Carolina Association of County Agriculture Agents
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4-H Inspires Kids to Do!



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